



Volume 3 Edition 1

# The Ground Plane

South Bay  
Amateur  
Radio  
Association  
ARRL Member Club  
Since 1974



January, 2002

## Presidents Message SBARA 2002 President—Mike AB6CV

### Happy New Year 2002

Welcome to the new year! Our December dinner was very popular. I saw more people there that I rarely see. For those of you that were not there I wanted to let you know that SBARA presented Syd Furman a plaque to honor him for his many years of invaluable service to SBARA. He was also given a poster with pictures of many of his friends on it to help him remember them all. There are so many! After the presentation many of his friends stood up and told some interesting stories about their adventures with him over the years. It was really wonderful.

I am working with our Activities Manager to try and find new activities for the club to participate in. And I hope some of you will give Prima Vera a try this year. As well as some of the other community events as well.

I hope to see you all at the January meeting.

Mike AB6CV

### Contest Corral

The North American QSO party is coming up soon. The second full weekend in Jan is CW and the third full weekend is Phone.

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.html>

There is a psk31 contest on Jan 19 here is the web site telling about it.

<http://hometown.aol.com/n3dqu/podxs070.htm>

The ARRL VHF sweepstakes is the same weekend 19-20

Mike AB6CV

### SBARA Meeting

SBARA meets every third Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the Community Center in Fremont.

### January Program

January's presentation will be on the emergency CERTS program in our community. Come learn what CERTS is all about and how amateur radio fits with this emergency preparedness program.

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## WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19TH, 2002. - 12:00PM to 4:00PM

Sam, WS6S <sam@severs.com> will be leading a workshop to build N1DDK's direction finding 'Time of Arrival' antenna kit. The workshop will be at Lake Elizabeth at either the boat house or the community center depending upon availability of the community center on the 19th.

Kits are available from Sam Severs <sam@severs.com> and will be available the day of the workshop. The price is \$20. If you want a basic piece of equipment for going on a Transmitter Hunt do not miss this workshop opportunity. Elmers will be at the workshop to help you with the kit assembly and testing.

See you on January 19th!!

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### Time of Arrival Direction Finder Kit

Here's Your Chance To Build a Time of Arrival Direction Finder Kit.

In the fine tradition of SBARA workshops James Lee / N1DDK now brings you a TOA direction finder kit that's a real performer and easy on your wallet! Even if you have only a faint interest in radio direction finding or RDF this item is worth building and keeping around the shack. If you enjoyed the tiny tracker this kit won't disappoint.

The time of arrival direction finder scheme can be used with any scanner or HT to obtain bearings on any signal that can be heard. Unlike direction finding with a Yagi, an attenuator is not needed.

The kit has 31 items & components and has a polished set of illustrated instructions (as good as any Griefkit I ever assembled). The builder supplies antennas (4 telescopic Radio Shack whips) or some aluminum or brass welding rod (known) to be available at DALE hardware. A couple of AAA batteries and something to mount everything on completes the assembly.

**The workshop will be on January 19th, 2002 at the Lake Elizabeth Boathouse (not community center) between 1PM and 4PM. Cost of the kit is \$20.00.**

Those of you wanting to participate contact Sam Severs / WS6S at 510-791-7065 or Al Rendon / WT6K at 510-656-2427.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sam Severs WS6S

SBARA List Server—<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/sbara>

# JANUARY CERT COMM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The first CERT Comm Steering Committee meeting of the New Year will be TUESDAY, January 8, 2002 at 7:30 PM in the Centerville Room of the Fremont City Administration Building, 31900 Liberty St.

Except for January, we will meet as usual on the Second Wednesday of each month, same time and place as above.

The CERT Comm Steering Committee consists of each District Communication Officer, (appointed by each CERT District Coordinator), a Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator (elected by the membership at-large), the Past Coordinator, and a representative from the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Anyone interested in CERT and Emergency Communications is welcome to attend the Steering Committee meetings.

The Mission of the Steering Committee is:

1. To actively work toward the goals of the Community Emergency Response Team.
2. To enable and provide effective emergency communications within CERT, in cooperation and coordinated with other organizations.
3. To further the skills and preparation of CERT volunteers and emergency radio operators.
4. To increase the number of active CERT volunteers with expertise in emergency communications.

For more information on CERT Comm, see our website <http://www.qsl.net/kg6adr>.

## CERT CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS SET

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To further the capabilities of CERT members, a number of Continuing Education Class have been scheduled for 2002.

CERT Comm is responsible for classes on the "Effective use of the Family Radio Service (FRS)". FRS radio are relatively inexpensive, readily available at most stores that sell electronics and require no license. They are perfect for relatively short distance communications such as between a Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Leader and a search team inside a building. In many circumstances they can be used for communication between a SAR team and the District Command Post. They also have numerous non-emergency uses.

The FRS class will be given on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 and again on Tuesday, September 10, 2002. The location will be the old city government building, 39700 Civic Center Drive, 3rd floor. Class time is 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Pre-registration is required. CERT training is free of charge to residents of Fremont or people who work in Fremont. Class size is limited. You can sign up through the Fremont Fire Department by e-mail at [FremontFire@ci.fremont.ca.us](mailto:FremontFire@ci.fremont.ca.us).

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

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The complete list of continuing education classes is:

- \* First Aid: Thursday, March 7, 2002
- \* Go Pack Demonstration and Family Service Radio Introduction: Tuesday, March 12, 2002
- \* First Aid: Tuesday, May 21, 2002
- \* Pet First Aid and Disaster Care: Tuesday, June 11, 2002
- \* First Aid: Tuesday, September 3, 2002
- \* Go Pack Demonstration and Family Service Radio Introduction: Tuesday, September 10, 2002
- \* First Aid: Thursday, October 24, 2002
- \* Camp Set Up: Tuesday, November 12, 2002

## KEY CERT DATES

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Other important CERT dates for 2002 include:

- \* Annual BayNet Drill -- our "big event" for the year where we simulate all aspects of disaster response -- Saturday, April 6, 2002. Location will be determined by your District Coordinator.
- \* Family Picnic and Training Event -- Short refresher workshops, food and games -- Saturday, September 21, 2002.

For information on regular CERT classes as well as all of the above events, see the CERT website: <http://www.fremontcert.org>.

## CERT COMM NET MOVES TO A NEW DATE, NEW REPEATER

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Over the past year we have conducted a weekly CERT Comm net for all CERT members with access to a Ham radio. Starting in February 12, 2002 we will make two changes:

- (1) The net will move to the N6OXR repeater, 146.940 MHz, negative offset, PL 123.0 Hz.
- (2) The net will take place the SECOND TUESDAY of each month at 2000 hours.

Why these changes?

- (1) N6OXR is the designated repeater for the Tactical Net for Fremont. This is the frequency CERT Comm will use for voice communications between District Command Posts and the Fire Department's Forward Operations Center (FOC). We should practice using the frequency we will actually be using during an emergency! (FYI, the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015+ is used for the 'resource net'. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service [ARES] uses this net to find out who is available and assign them tasks. CERT Comm members report to their District's staging area for assignment and should not need to participate in the Resource Net.)
- (2) By reducing the schedule from weekly to monthly we hope to conduct useful radio communications practice session during the net, rather than just check in and out. Hopefully this will also encourage more participation! If necessary, details of the evening's drill will be sent by e-mail ahead of time. If you have ideas for a drill, or would like to run the net one evening please contact me at kg6adr@arrl.net.

We continue to encourage all CERT members who are Hams to check in to the ARES net at 1930 hours each Tuesday on the 147.015+ repeater.

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## KEY FREQUENCIES PREPROGRAMMED INTO CERT COMM RADIOS

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In our continuing effort to simplify communication in an emergency, each of the hand-held Ham radios owned by the CERT Districts has been preprogrammed with commonly used frequencies. Details, including quick reference guides to the use of the District's radio can be found on the CERT Comm website <http://www.qsl.net/kg6adr>. Click on "RESOURCES".

One feature of the preprogrammed channels relates to the use of repeaters, and what to do if they fail during an emergency. Repeaters operate by receiving on one frequency (the input frequency) and simultaneously retransmitting on a different frequency (the output frequency), known as 'duplex operation'. If you are using a repeater your radio is set up to automatically listen to the repeater's output and transmit on the repeater's input. If the repeater fails to function, standard procedure is to both transmit and receive on the repeater's output frequency; known as 'simplex operation'. The district radios are programmed for both of these situations. For example, normally the Tactical Net (for communications between the Districts and the Fire Department) will be conducted on Channel 3. Channel 3 is set for normal, duplex operation of the Tactical Repeater. If the repeater fails the net will continue on Channel 4, which is set for simplex operation on the same frequency.

Also programmed into the radios is the frequency for communications between Districts and Search and Rescue Teams, 145.700 Simplex, on channel 5. (Note that this is a general simplex frequency for emergency communications in Fremont and will need to be shared with many users.)

The frequency, 145.030, for digital (packet) communication is programmed in channel 6. CERT hopes that much of the communication from District Command Posts to the Fire Department will be digital, rather than voice, in the future.

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## IN THE WORKS

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We will be providing you with information on the following in the near future:

- \*\*\* Radio training incorporated into the standard CERT Training Classes.
- \*\*\* Cram Classes to painlessly get you a Ham license
- \*\*\* CERT Comm training on Ham radio operation; Communication, Command and Control; Antennas; Packet Radio; and more...
- \*\*\* Details of the monthly on-air drills!

**ARRL Study Panel Recommends Eliminating Novice Bands** (Dec 21, 2001) -- On the basis of nearly 5000 survey responses, the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the CW Novice/Technician Plus sub-bands be eliminated as such, and that Novice and Tech Plus (or Technicians with Element 1 credit) licensees be permitted to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended reforming the current Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands, in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

#### **VUCC on 6 Meters (QRP) Requires Only 9 Feet of Wire**

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 20, 2001--Six meters is hot, and Ed Seaward, WA1FVJ, is living proof. Seaward has worked 100 grids on 6 meters--CW and SSB--with less than 5 W. His antenna? A 9-foot-long dipole perhaps 20 feet high--barely above the roof of his East Hartford, Connecticut home.

#### **Special event commemorates ARRL transatlantic tests:**

Special event station GB2ZE will operate until January 2, 2002, from Ardrossan in southwestern Scotland to mark the 80th anniversary of the successful Amateur Radio transatlantic listening tests of 1921. The tests culminated on December 12, 1921, when ARRL's special representative Paul F. Godley, 2ZE, confirmed reception of 1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, which had been erected especially for the tests. Listening between 200 and 400 meters, Godley also heard several other Amateur Radio transmissions from North America during his stay (Godley used a super-heterodyne receiver and a Beverage antenna--Ed). GB2ZE will operate CW and SSB on a variety of bands, conditions depending.

**FCC announces new paper filing location, general correspondence fax number:** The FCC's contractor, Vistronix, Inc, is now receiving hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. Filing hours are 8 AM until 7 PM. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners, and envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. This facility is the only location that accepts hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary. The FCC no longer accepts such filings at its Capitol Heights, Maryland, facility. Until further notice, the FCC no longer accepts hand or messenger-delivered filings for the Secretary at its 12th Street headquarters. All other messenger-delivered documents, including documents sent by overnight mail--**other than United States Postal Service (USPS) Express Mail and Priority Mail**--must be addressed to 9300 East Hampton Dr, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. This location will be open from 8 AM until 5:30 PM. All USPS first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should continue to be addressed to FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. (USPS mail addressed to the Commission's headquarters is redirected to Capitol Heights for screening prior to delivery.) The FCC now provides a fax number, 202-418-0188, to receive *general correspondence*, such as inquiries about FCC activities, status inquiries, fee-related questions, and correspondence other than official filings to the FCC Secretary. Correspondents are asked to address faxed correspondence to Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554, and to include the FCC bureau or office to which the correspondence is directed, and/or the name and room number of the FCC staffer to whom correspondence is directed. For additional information, visit the FCC Web site.

**"The Big Project" logo designs due December 28:** There's still time to submit your suggested logo design for the ARRL's Amateur Radio Education Project-- "The Big Project." The deadline is December 28. "The theme is using Amateur Radio in education," says The Big Project Coordinator Jerry Hill, KH6HU. "This is your opportunity to show off your creativity." All entries should incorporate the ARRL diamond, portray the proper image in both black-and-white and in color, and be the same size as other standard patches, such as ARES--typically 3.5 inches in diameter. Entries should be submitted electronically at a resolution suitable for *QST* publication (at least 300 dpi when the image is sized at 4x5 inches or larger; see *The ARRL Author's Guide*). The creator of the logo selected as a permanent symbol for The Big Project will receive a handsome wall certificate, and the winner's name will be announced in *QST*, in *The ARRL Letter* and on the ARRL Web site. E-mail entries no later than Friday, December 28, 2001, to The Big Project Coordinator Jerry Hill, KH6HU. Resubmit your entry if it's not acknowledged within two business days.

# FCC Announcements

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